

Congregational Tidings

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



A weekly newsletter



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa

July 3, 2018

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 8, 2018

10:30 am

**Evie Waack will
present the message:**

Do Not Fear

(Holden Village Summer Theme)

Using the text:

Psalm 139:1-14

Worship Leader

Dale Waack

Children's Lesson

Evie Waack

Special Music

Cliff Highnam

Deacon-In-Charge

Beth Hurley

Condolences:



Our sincere condolences to Bonnie Bessman whose sister passed away last Saturday. Please keep Bonnie and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

What Do Families Do Now?

Like most families we filled the sanctuary with people who wanted Tim to know they care, to show their support for his long, fruitful ministry at First Church, to demonstrate their affection for Tim the person. We listened to his most personal parting thoughts, to what Gratitude has meant to Tim, to him encouraging us to accept our new spiritual leader, Scott Spence, for who he is and what he has to share. We gathered in the dining room to share a meal, to share memories and stories close to us, to laugh together and celebrate twenty-four years of ministry with us. And we said, "Thank you!" over and over again, and we still felt like we needed to say it again. We hugged and cried as families do when a family member is moving away ... far away. And now we feel emptiness. So, what do we do now?

What we do is what every loving, caring family like ours does ... we look after each other. And what we'll find is there's no better way to care for ourselves than to care for someone else. What? Yes, caring is a two-way street, a dialogue, a conversation that needs two or more people. Caring isn't something you do TO someone, it's something you do WITH someone. When you give someone a much needed "hug", literally or figuratively, you always get a "hug" in return, don't you? So, hug away!!

We have many people in our church family who need your care. People who are hurting and need someone to be there with them. Some who are just lonely and need one of us to visit. Some who just can't get out the way they used to ... maybe they just need someone to pick up a few groceries for them. Some who need a helping hand because they simply have too much going on in their life right now. Or someone who is grieving and needs you to understand and comfort them. Be that someone. Take the time to find out who needs you and you'll be helping yourself and your emptiness, as well ... really! That's what we do!

The Problem with Giving "Thanks!"

We had a wonderful celebration July 1st, didn't we? Obviously, those events don't just happen. There were a lot of hands and minds working toward this special day and we need to tell them, "Thank You!" The problem with giving out "Thanks!" is inevitably someone is forgotten. It's actually a good problem to have because it means there are many church family willing to step in and help. You know who you are and we notice. We give our special "Thanks!" to you and all of the others who aren't assigned or asked, but who merely step in and do what needs to be done. You saw many of them as clean-up began and continued into the afternoon. Thank You!

Also on the list is the Farewell Committee. The members of that committee are Tim Ahrens, Sue Hummel, Marcia Johnson, Anne Hoekstra, Paul Prescott, and Paul Greene. The committee grew as people became involved in some of the tasks. Hannah Prescott joined the committee as more of the planning involved her. Craig Driver joined when he was asked to do some writing. And Diane Highnam joined when she was asked to use her photography skills and was kind enough to ask, "What else can I do to help?" She was immediately rewarded for her generosity with a To-Do list of her own ... lesson learned. :) There were countless hours spent making this day special. As you can imagine there were many, many tasks and special projects each of the committee members worked on that we don't have space to mention. Please thank these folks when you see them next Sunday.

There are also others who were asked to help out because of special talents and skills they have. We owe them all a big, "Thank you!" for their willingness to share their talents and time and for their passion for their church family. They are:

Greg Holt	organizing/delivering Tim Trivia
Greg and Keith Jorgensen	brainstorming and ordering Tim Bobble Head dolls
Craig Driver	authoring the Farewell Letter from the church family
	authoring the cover of "Thank You" Notes Book
Kathy Franke & Quilters	creating the two, unique lap throw quilts
Jo Tefft	special embroidering for the lap throw quilts
Cliff Highnam	building the high tech fishing rod and wooden storage box
Greg, Anne, Lauren, & Cliff	writing and sharing Tim Memories
Donna Sheridan	making delicious blue & green mints
Julie Kiefer	growing/donating all of the beautiful flowers for table decorations
Diane Morris	donating the stately framing & matting for the Farewell Letter
Hannah Prescott	creating the Tim Memories slideshow
Diane Highnam	photographing all gifts and creating slideshow
Kevin McConnell	creating/donating the Shalom, Tim banner

We already thanked Tim Ahrens & Family on Sunday for their time and efforts, but it needs be mentioned again. Tim Ahrens & Selected Family/Helpers prepared and served a delicious meal for over 200 people ... flawlessly. The walleye were happily caught by Ahrens (well, the walleye weren't too happy, but the Ahrens were). The meticulous planning and preparations started many weeks in advance.

And, finally, our wonderful church staff! Michelle and Skyler had lots of extra duties to make this day happen from copying, folding, and sending out the original invitations to setting up tables and chairs. Ben and Miah had extra duty during worship to put together a spiritual musical extravaganza in the summer ... exactly what Tim wanted. And choir members of both choirs showed up in force to share the special day! Alleluia! Thanks to All for Helping! Thanks to All for Attending! Thanks to God for Family! Thanks Be to God!

Paul Greene, Moderator



The Wonder of Youth



First Lady Lynne



Special People



E
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Just a few glimpses
of a Special Day



Difficult Goodbyes



Special Communion



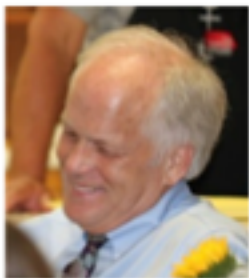
The Last Supper



Memories



Supporting Church Family



See the
Resemblance?



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Congregational Tidings

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Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

2018 Second Quarter Financial Status

The Church Operating Budget continues in good condition. At the end of June, we were 50 percent of the way through our budget year, so both income and expense should be close to that number. Current Pledge income was 53.6 percent and Total Income was 56.3 percent, more than budgeted. Total Expense was 49.9 percent, right on budget. The Summer and early Fall months are traditionally months when pledge payments slow, and in some past years we have had to borrow from the Endowment to keep the doors open. So please make an effort to keep your pledge payments up to date.

We are in the third, and final year of the Rose Window/Sound System capital campaign. Office Manager, Michelle Wolfe, reports that 21 pledge units have pledges due yet this year. If you are one of them, please plan to make your final pledge payment in the coming months. If you have questions about either the Operating Budget or the Capital Campaign, please contact Michelle.

Dave Allbaugh
Treasurer